

John 14 – 16, pt.3, 7.26.09

Doing the Greater Works!

Introd.

1. Read Text
2. v.11 is a transition sentence from the works of Jesus to the works of the disciples.
3. He wants them to know they will be okay w/o him. Though he's leaving his power isn't. They will have everything they need to continue the expansion of God's Kingdom. They needed that comfort and we need it too.
4. Notice in v.11, a person's belief in Jesus is sometimes due to Jesus' works. I.e., a person sees the miracle power of Jesus and he turns to him. Miracles are a means to faith
 - a. John 1.47–51: Jesus has a word of knowledge about Nathaniel & it leads to his conversion.
 - b. 2.11 – after turning the water into wine his disciples believed in him.
 - c. 3.2 – Nicodemus admitted his miracles were a sign of God's presence.
 - d. John 4 – the woman at the well was converted b/c Jesus had a word of knowledge about her.
 - e. John 4.53: a gov't official & family place their faith in Christ b/c of the miraculous healing of the official's son.
 - f. John 7.31 – many believed in Christ b/c of his miracles.
 - g. John 10.38 – Jesus tells them to believe due to his miraculous activity.
5. Miracles should be a normal expression of our Christian faith. Miracles are ways of communicating both God's love and power; Miracles are means for many to come to faith in Christ. God is still in the miracle business and we should press into them. We should ask for and expect miracles. They are necessary for faith development.

6. So many Christian leaders want to be relevant today that they are changing programs & methodology & styles, but they aren't tapping into the power of the supernatural. I'm all for keeping up structures so that they meet current needs. But, having a coffee bar with scones is nothing compared to a miraculous encounter with the living Jesus. I'm all for coffee, but serve me up the miraculous anyday!
7. We need the words of Jesus AND we need the miracles of Jesus!

The declaration: WE WILL DO GREATER WORKS THAN JESUS! (14.12)

1. "Verily, verily" or "Truly, truly" or Listen up! I'm about to make a truth statement that is very important!
2. It's emphatic! It is a declaration! It is a statement of fact!
3. "same works" – What are they? Bringing the message of salvation, delivering people from demons, healing the sick, showing compassion to the weak and broken, giving encouragement to those in need, multiplying bread for the hungry, raising the dead. In short, everything Jesus did we will do, GREATER!
 - a. I would include any work that is done in the name of Jesus. In the field of education, medicine, business, humanitarian response.
4. "greater works" – not greater in quality, but in quantity. I don't think you can improve on raising a person from the dead. That's a quality miracle! But, his disciples both past & present have done more miracles than Jesus. If you were to add up all the miracles, salvations, compassion ministry and the like that have been done in the name of Jesus it would dwarf the quantity done by Jesus.
 - a. Reinhard Bonkee video of the crowds
 - b. Don Piper raised from the dead – his story is covering the globe.
 - c. Jesus' ministry was contained to Israel but now it extends to the ends of the earth.
 - d. What has Jesus done in your life? Share testimonies of God answering your prayers.

- e. John 15.7f – But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted. When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to me. Or NIV – This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit...

The conditions:

1. We must believe. (14.12)

- a. “Believes in me” – this isn’t talking about faith for salvation. The verb tense is, “he who is continually believing in me.” This is referring to his disciples who remain steadfast in their belief that He will keep His word. These disciples take God at His word & act on it (14.15).
- b. It requires a living faith to activate the same works as Jesus
- c. What does that faith look like?
 - i. Faith that’s been tainted – doubtfilled; cynical; looks for the unanswered requests; uncertain about the goodness of God. Thoughts: “it doesn’t always work out; prayer is more for therapy than for answers; God uses people and doesn’t typically intervene; it’s up to us to make changes.”
 - ii. Faith that is strong – an absolute trust in the goodness of God; absolute confidence in His ability and willingness to respond (God can & wants to respond); a childlike obedience to His commands; an absolute rest in God’s timing. They can live with tension and mystery of unanswered prayer and continue believing w/o growing offended at God or indifferent to Him.

2. Jesus must be with His Father. (14.12)

- a. Jesus had to ascend to the Father. If he hadn’t, the activity of the Holy Spirit would have been limited to his physical presence. Jesus was a man fully connected to His Father and fully empowered by the HS.
- b. He ascended to the Father and two changes took place.

- i. now he intercedes for us.
 - ii. The HS can be given in all His fullness to every follower of Jesus. John 16.7–15 makes it clear that Jesus had to leave so that the HS could be imparted to every follower of Jesus.
 - iii. It is better to have the HS on earth today than to have Jesus' physical presence still with us. We each carry the same power Jesus had.
- 3. We must ask in the name of Jesus. (14.13f)
 - a. This isn't a magical formula or simply a way of closing a prayer.
 - b. What does it mean to "ask in the name of Jesus"?
 - i. It means to draw from the account of Jesus. It's like taking the ATM card someone has given you and using it to buy things you need. You are using their name/card to draw upon their resources/money to buy you needed items.
 - 1. Illust – Andrew takes my debit card to purchase something he needs. He asks my permission; his needs are in agreement with my will; I allow for my money to be released to meet that need.
 - 2. He can't use my debit card for whatever he wants, but only whatever I'm in agreement with.
 - ii. Our request is as if Jesus himself were making it. By asking in "Jesus' name" you are identifying fully with Christ. You're his ambassador, doing his business and your request is from Him. Therefore, it's important we should know the things we should ask for.
 - iii. It's authorized activity by Jesus. In other words, my request has the authorization of Jesus.
 - 1. Illust – a police officer stopping a car. What gives him the right to do this? His radar, fast car, big gun or the law. People stop b/c of the law. He is

a law enforcement official. The law is what authorizes him to tell us to stop.

2. When we cast out a demon or heal the sick or make a general request, we are saying, "Jesus has authorized me to ask for this...sickness must cease, devils must flee and answers must come.

c. What can we ask for?

i. What is in alignment with His Word, will and character as illustrated in the Word of God.

ii. Mt.13.41 – God sending forth his angels to remove everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

1. Recent drug bust

2. Other types of evil that surfaces.

The promise: HE WILL DO IT!!!